



THE WACCAMAW INDIAN PEOPLE

An Indian Tribe Recognized by the State of South Carolina

Founding Member of the South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission

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The Honorable Chief Leon Locklear
Tuscarora Nation of NC
288 Tuscarora Nation Road
Maxton NC 28364

Dear Chief Locklear:

I am writing this letter recommendation to encourage the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs to recognize the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina in Maxton, North Carolina as a historical American Indian Tribe of North Carolina

I can attest that the Tuscarora Nation's history marks them as a Indigenous Tribal Nation with distinct practices indigenous as a Tribe. I have observed, personally, Ceremonies in the Longhouse, the only Tuscarora Longhouse in the State of North Carolina.

Tuscarora Tribal Citizens continue to teach the "distinctive" traditional Tuscarora Language that they have taught for decades. There are weekly cultural class held on their tribal grounds in Maxton, and an annual Tribal Pauwau which, I attend. This Pauwau, brings most of the Tuscaroras and many other tribes together, as one people.

Collectively, we celebrate the recognition of the Tuscarora and Inter-Tribal traditions, Tuscarora language, tribal identity, Native foods, Tribal dancing, Indigenous families, prayers, Native youth, signing, drumming, Tribal leadership, Iroquois - Longhouse songs with the water drum, and healing.

In the years of 1764 through 1779, some of my ancestors are half Tuscarora and Waccamaw Indian: Isaac Hatcher, Isham Hatcher, Robert Hatcher, and Timothy Hatcher, who secured their tribal lands by the Royal King George III (Land Patents File:1910,2093, 2388, 3187) in the specific location of the, "South and East Side of Drowning Creek Swamp and the Brown Marsh". During those colonial years that land was part of Bladen County which extends into South Carolina because Robeson County was not officially established as a "county" in the State of North Carolina until 1787.

My ancestors lived on the same land as Henry Berry Lowry, and his Lowry Family (Tuscarora Ancestor of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina). The Lowry Family's adjoined land is proven by a King George III's Record (by James Lowry) He owned 1,875 acres from the years 1770-1789 on Drowning Creek (Royal Land Patents File:1973,2008,2009,2242,2486,2745, 4045,0481,0482,0483,0484,0485,0486,4208,4469).

My ancestors, who are Hatchers, had adjoined lands to the Lowry and Pugh Family (Tuscaroras from Bertie County). The land of the Lowry Family adjoined the Tuscarora Chief's William Pugh's Land. The Tuscarora Chieftain William Pugh of Bertie County, (Confirmed as "Tuscarora Chieftain" by Tuscarora Land Lease in 1766, 1777, 1782, Book: M, pg. 314-319, "Indians" in Bertie County, North Carolina) secured and obtained over 1,250 acres of lands by King George II On May 9, 1753, Book: 10, pg. 366 Bladen County, and again on November 17, 1753 on "Drowning Creek and Saddle Tree Swamp" (King George II Land File: 415, 0734, 1125, 0815).

According to official proven records of King George II, the land that the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina owns is legally the land of the Tuscarora Chief William Pugh's who obtained the land on May 9, 1753 by the authority of the Royal Crown King George II.

My Hatcher ancestors maintained decades of tribal relationships and early kinship ties, (Peter Hatcher, Sallie Hatcher and Edmond Lowry) with the ancestors of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina. Not only did our tribal ancestors marry each other, but also served together in the wars fought on behalf and/or in North Carolina as soldiers. James Lowry and Ison Hatcher did so prior to this land being called the "United States of America" and before the creation of the U.S. Constitution (established on September 17, 1787) and the Day of Independence on July 4, 1776.

The Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina is a historical tribe because their ancestors were called "Tuscarora Indian" namely

(1) the land of the Lowry Family adjoined the Tuscarora Chief's William Pugh's Land. The Tuscarora Chieftain William Pugh of Bertie County, (Confirmed as "Tuscarora Chieftain" by Tuscarora Land Lease in 1766, 1777, 1782, Book: M, pg. 314-319, "Indians" in Bertie County, North Carolina) secured and obtained over 1,250 acres of lands by the King George II On May 9, 1753, and again on November 17, 1753 on "Drowning Creek and Saddle Tree Swamp,"

(2) Since June 1867, the U.S. War Department maintains federal authority and jurisdiction of letters regarding the Lowry family as "Tuscarora Indians," during the same time period when the Indian Removal Act was signed and active on May 28, 1830 and being that the U.S. government knew about the letters, serve as federal acknowledgement being part of the historical Tuscarora Indians of North Carolina by the US War Department; moreover, the U.S. Department of War stored the federal letters for 151 years in Washington, DC.

The Lumbee Act in 1956, re-classified all Indians in Robeson County, regardless of tribal affiliation as a new multicultural tribe, now known as "the Great Lumbee Nation. The Lumbee, a valiant and productive tribe assembles many cultures together and protects them from encroachment, but some legitimate indigenous peoples were not included. This is evidenced by several tribes in North Carolina such as the Waccamaw Siouan, Meherrin, Haliwa-Saponi, Occaneechi and others recognized, independent of the Lumbee.

Tuscarora is such a tribe, existing since prehistory and determined to maintain their own identify, all the while honoring their fellow tribes of the state and deserving protections afforded by recognition.

The United States War Department has records that validates the Tuscarora tribal identity of the Robeson County Indians, specifically the "Lowry Family are Tuscarora Indians," on the 1753

Tuscarora Chief William "Billy" Pugh land on Drowning Creek and Saddle Tree (1865-1867 U.S. Federal War Department, Army Command: "Letters Received, March 1867-August 1868" (entry 4111) for the Second Military District in the Records of United States Army Continental Commands (Record Group 393). Within file R10 in Box 9, "Murders of Allen and William Lowry: Tuscarora Indians" John H. Coble and Luther McKinnon, dated June 8, 1867.

On February 12, 1885, in the Fayetteville Observer Newspaper, Mr. Hamilton McMillian stated the "Indians in Robeson County didn't recognize Croatan Indians as their tribe, but only Village, and that they were "Tuscaroras."

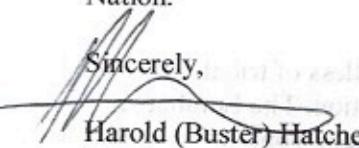
My direct ancestor, Peter Hatcher was federally acknowledged by the U.S. Federal Census and identified as "Full Blood Indian" Croatoan in the 1900 Indian Population Census, Burnt Swamp, Robeson County, North Carolina (1900 US Census, Robeson Co. Enumeration District:104, Sheet 39, Pg.298 A). My ancestor, Peter Hatcher, and other family members has continued to intermarry with Tuscaroras Indians of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina, Reference: Sallie Hatcher married Edmond Lowry on June 19, 1903. Sallie Hatcher is Peter Hatcher's daughter who died on May 7, 1926 in Robeson County, North Carolina. My people, the Waccamaw, have associated with the Tuscarora since prehistory. Some of that association might have been hostile but the fact remains that we intermingled, in several ways, even until today!

The Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina and their Tuscarora Ancestors has given much to the establishment of the State of North Carolina and these United States.

The present-day Tuscarora people as well as the Tuscarora Ancestors, have collectively continued to exist as Indigenous People of the United States for over 200 years, to the present day of 2018. The Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina has maintained a distinctive tribal community on the Tuscarora Chieftain's land obtained by King George II in 1753.

The forgoing and the fact that history should tell the whole story coupled with the fact that the Tuscarora legacy must be protected, lest this country, the state of North Carolina and the Native American Communities, risk losing a great legacy, I strongly recommend the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina to be acknowledge by the State of North Carolina as a official state recognized Tribal Nation.

Sincerely,


Harold (Buster) Hatcher
Chief